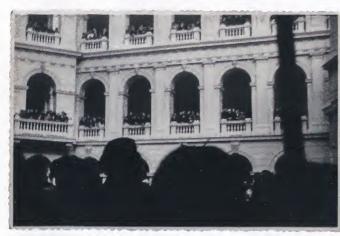


MUZEUM PRL-U -- CULTURAL INSTITUTION OF KRAKOW

ONE-WAY JOURNEY: MARCH'68

The Museum of Poland under the Communist Regime in Kraków invites visitors to an exhibition 'One-Way Journey: March '68', which has been prepared on the 50th anniversary of the events it describes.

The March events of 1968 were a complex, multidimensional occurrence, as a revolt of the young, a political and social crisis, a time of intellectuals' dissent and staff purges, as well as of anti-Semitic, antistudent, and anti-intellectual propaganda campaigns. One of the results of the contemporary developments was a coerced departure from Poland of thirteen thousand people of Jewish origin. The present exhibition, however, does not aspire to tell a comprehensive tale of all the threads of the March events. Indicating them all, it focuses upon the story of the students' revolt, the 'March rhetorics', and emigration.



Rally in the Warsaw University of Technology. Anonymous photograph from the KARTA Center Foundation Collections.



Public mass meeting of inhabitants of Kraków in the Main Market Square, condemning the March events. Phot. by Stanisław Gawliński. Courtesy of KARTA Center Foundation.

In the general perception, the legacy of 'March '68' corresponds with the symbolism of the various 'Polish months' such as October 1956 (the 'Polish thaw'),

December 1970 and June 1976 with their protests, or

August 1980 (the Gdańsk Agreement). The 'Polish months' are a symbolic mental shortcut illustrating the nation's strife with the imposed political system, as well as attempts to correct and improve it, a revolt, and struggle for sovereignty.

The exhibition brings back the revolt of the young, promptly suppressed by the apparatus of repression. It also calls to mind an equally important aspect of the events of 1968, namely, the anti-Semitic propaganda campaign. This campaign created a picture of a Jew as a Zionist, an enemy responsible for the ongoing crisis, which the authorities then used to consolidate their position in the internal political strife. The social consequences of March 1968 form an important part of our narration, too. By social consequences, we mean not only the fact that about thirteen thousand Polish citizens were forced to emigrate and thrown out of their homeland with a sense of injustice, but also the

spreading of the language of hatred propagated with impunity in the mass media or at the rallies inspired by the authorities.

Another important part of the exhibition consists of accounts of, and interviews with, the witnesses to history who left Poland and moved to Israel in 1968 – 1971. Those interviews were conducted in Israel in the autumn of 2017 by the curator of the present exhibition at the Museum of Polish People's Republic, Mrs. Karolina Żłobecka. Together with our camera operator, she recorded the conversations with several persons who had responded to our appeal for sharing with us their experiences from 1968 and the emotions connected with those events. Their relations are presented in a symbolic gesture of allowing the wronged to speak at last; the victims of the relentless campaign of hatred organized by the state apparatus.

The present exhibition has been prepared thanks to the friendly collaboration with the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Historical Museum of the City of Kraków, KARTA Center Foundation, Foundation of the Center for Research and Documentation of the Polish Struggle for Independence, Institute of National Remembrance, Socio-Cultural Association of Jews in Poland, Shalom Foundation, National Theatre and National Museum in Kraków, and the participants of March events who shared their memories with us.



Jerzy Neftalin bids farewell to his father before leaving for Sweden. Photograph taken at Dworzec Gdański railway station in Warsaw in May 1969. Phot. by Elżbieta Turlejska. Courtesy of Elżbieta Turlejska.



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ONE-WAY JOURNEY: MARCH'68

Exhibition opened from March 27th to October 31st, 2018 Exhibition Curator: Karolina Żłobecka

Muzeum PRL-u

CULTURAL INSTITUTION OF KRAKOW CO-RUN BY THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND NATIONAL HERITAGE

os. Centrum E1, 31-934 Kraków phone: +48 12 446 78 21; +48 12 446 78 22

Exhibitions open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 5pm Museum office: Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm

The exhibition shall be supplemented with a series of accompanying events organized by the Museum of Poland under the Communist Regime in cooperation with the Jewish Community Centre of Krakow, Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow, the 'Multicultural Krakow' Project, and MIFGASH Foundation. Details will be posted on our website: www.mprl.pl



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